

## ACCUSES EMPLOYERS OF CONSPIRACY WITH "SECRET COMMITTEE"

Signed Agreement Said to Exist Whereby Outside Competition Is Throttled.

PLOT REVEALED BY PRISON CONFESSION

Lawrence Murphy Exposes the Methods Employed by "Crafters."

HE ACCUSES MANY OTHERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE.)

whom gave perjured testimony against me," was the reply. "There were others who got the money."

"Did this board go over your accounts?" "They never went over my accounts; all they did was to read the books of the corresponding secretary. There were no proper accounts, and when that \$10,000 came from Brooklyn they all wanted to grab it, and there was a great time all around."

"How did you distribute the money?"

"One man got \$500 at one time, and there were five and ten dollar bills for everybody on the secret committee; the society knew nothing about it all. They just heaped up the expenses, and I paid and kept quiet. Oh, yes, Larry was easy, and Larry had to stand for it all. There was one item of \$625 that I never saw in my life. 'Don' Call got it from Rubenstein, who has a yard in Brooklyn. Call was president, delegate and the whole business in our society. He collected \$100 in cash which I never received, and he turned over to me a note for \$625. Two days before the maturity of this note he asked me for it and I gave it to him."

"And did he get the money?"

"Well, now, he had the note, which was due, and I saw no cash. That's what I know about the transaction. Now some of them have turned against me, and I'm suffering for the wrong done by many."

"In sentencing you Judge Newburger said he had received a letter from John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, saying you had failed to turn over to him \$1,000 voted by your union to assist the striking coal miners in the anthracite region. Is that true?"

"That is the darkest thing that they have against me," answered Murphy. "I made the motion myself and I was to have carried the money. It was supposed to come from a fund of \$10,000. Well, I started with the \$1,000 for Pennsylvania and I never got there. That is all there is to it. But you see I had been paying for strikes and giving out the money here and there, and not bothering about funds or books at all."

Charges Were Pressed.

"My lawyer, John F. McIntyre, knew all this and tried to bring out the facts on my trial, but Judge Newburger would not let him, and all had to go by the board. They let in everything against me, and Assistant District Attorney Nott, who prosecuted, did not omit one tiny item. There was no use saying I was not guilty of any crime."

"A good deal of the money I got went to a first lawyer I retained. He said it was a peculiar case and he would have the charges



LAWRENCE MURPHY AS HE APPEARED IN COURT

dismissed on a writ. He went before Judge Fitzgerald, who decided against me, and then he went to the Appellate Division. Well, the case was not dismissed. I thought that the matter would be settled right inside of the society, just as other matters had been. All but the men who put up the job on me were willing to withdraw and the society would have settled, but Jerome said the matter was in his hands and couldn't be withdrawn, though there was no indication at that time.

"I had said I would try to raise \$5,000 and turn it over, and all the men wanted to drop the charges except Rowan and Boyle. I want to say that when the trial came the witnesses for the prosecution were primed against me and did not tell the whole truth. Before the election in the society all of them were polite enough to me, I can tell you."

"Did you succeed in the last election?"

"Oh, yes," replied Murphy. "I was unanimously elected. Some of the trustees would come to me and say, 'How about it?' and they would get \$5 or \$10 to spend over Sunday. One of them often got \$30, and he used to kick because that was not enough. They had the best of liquors and cigars all the time, but they were never satisfied with what they got."

"How about the \$10,000 check?"

"Call got that from Colonel Baird last March and he kept it for two or three days, flashing it around barrooms. It was payable to me and I heard of it and I went to

Call and said, 'See here, I'm treasurer and I ought to get a look at that check.' I got it and I had it cashed in about a week, on a Saturday morning. I went to the bank and presently the paying teller handed me a package of bills. I did not think of counting the money in the bank, but placed it in my pocket and walked out. I found that it contained only \$3,000, and then I began to worry. I handed it to Jack Black to place in a safe-deposit vault. Black is prominent in the organization. He is not one of the officers, but he is one of the members."

Never Recovered Money.

"Did you recover this money you gave to Black?"

"Oh, no. I never saw it again. As to the other \$5,000, it appears that the paying teller knew that he had given me only one-half of the amount called for by the check, and he had sent word to a house from which I had removed some time before. I was not notified from my old address, but I got the money finally. There was a meeting of the society which I was to have attended, but I did not get there, and the rumor went around that I had skipped out to the old country."

"The next meeting was on a Wednesday, and I was there, and I said, 'Well, you've heard stories, but you see I have not skipped. I have been 'along the avenue,' and now I'm here all right.' There was no more said about the check, except that I should 'whack up.' I said to some who

here was a building at Broadway and

Bleecker street.

Union Here Insignificant.

"At that time," said Parks, "the iron workers in New York were working from \$3.75 to \$3.25 a day and working from eight to twelve hours. They had a small union, but it didn't do any thing. The bosses snubbed it, and the men didn't know what to do with it. Well, I joined, and in four months or so such a matter I was elected a delegate. Nobody would have the job then. Well, I began talking to the boys about what we had done in Chicago and told them I was going to have better wages here. Those were the golden days, when I had the big head and got cheery. I gave a punch or two and then they got nice to me. You've got to lick some men before they like you. Finally I got more than they do now. They imported 'guys' to do me up and that was fun, but we kept the fight up, and in 1888 we got the iron workers' union to increase to \$2.50 a day. Then the other lead-

ers began to stand by me and we kept boosting wages."

"In 1900 we asked for \$3 a day and got it. Then we asked for \$3.75 and didn't get it, and pulled jobs right and left, and then the bosses gave us the raise. Last year we asked for \$4 and that was the easiest thing yet. This year we asked for \$4.50 and got that. We ought to have a day for the kind of work we do and eight hours—that's fair play."

But the final test of strength between Parks and the New York employers was to come. At a meeting of the housemiths' union last Friday night, much to the surprise of the employers, Parks carried the meeting absolutely by his way, and reflected the request of the employers to have a conference with the union. The result of this is that the employers have now defied Parks and will put to work any housemith tomorrow morning who will go to work for them as individuals.

They say they have now reached a stage where they can ignore Parks and all his followers, and proceed with the building work to matter what he does. Several times before since last May they have made attempts to get the iron workers' union to come to the front with some new and disconcerting move, with the backing of a surprising large number of union men.

Only last Friday he succeeded in being elected president of the remnant of the old United Board of Building Trades, which he has since proceeded to ignore. Parks says that despite the declarations of the employers that he is out of it he will stand by them and that "Sam" Parks is still in control of the situation.

## New Men to Rush All Building Work

Employers Decide to Resume Construction To-Morrow Throughout the City, Under Police Protection if Necessary—Schools Are to Have Preference.

Under police protection, if necessary, men in all branches of construction will be put to work on the unfinished buildings of New York this week. Several thousand will be started in to-morrow morning. The United Portable Safety Engineers, Local 184, has signed the employers' arbitration agreement, and to these men will be given the hoisting work on the large buildings which has always been done by the riggers, a branch of the housemiths.

In response to advertisements, about one thousand housemiths have been enrolled by the iron employers, and a new union has been formed, to be known as the Housemiths' Union of New York. These new men will be put to work promptly.

The old Housemiths' Union controlled by the various employers' associations were further efforts will be made to reach them, and none of the members will be employed except as they come in as individuals and sign the agreement.

There is some apprehension on the part of the employers that the Parks men will make trouble for the new men, but arrangements have been made to prevent this, and the employers say that no matter what happens work will go forward from now on.

EMPLOYERS COMPLETE PLANS.

Members of the executive committees from the various employers' associations were meeting all day yesterday making plans for a general resumption of work and deciding which jobs should be started first. All the school buildings will be rushed as fast as possible. Dwellings and office buildings will be taken up next.

Concerning the action of the housemiths in Friday night in rejecting the overtures of the employers, this statement was given out by the employers' press committee yesterday:

"We were somewhat disappointed at the action of the union, although it might have been expected. Now we feel that we are at liberty to proceed on the same lines with this union as we have done with others that have not signed the agreement. So long as the union was under the control of the Park

battered me. 'You're very anxious about getting money, aren't you?' Well, they were all getting money in March and April, and I was unanimously elected treasurer, and at that time everything was known. They all wanted money, as is usual after the winter. They were hard up, and came to me and promised to pay me back in the spring, and they have been promising or keeping away from me ever since."

"There is not one man in ten in the society who didn't get a little one way or the other. And when it came to large amounts, they all wanted cash, and not checks. My little wife was about right on the trial—not a hundred miles out of the way—when she said my doorbell never ceased ringing, it was going night and day. I thought that all these facts would come out at the trial and that everything connected with the case would be investigated."

"The prosecution insisted that I was guilty, and so I was, but not as alleged. Mr. McIntyre had asked each juror if he would accept the ruling of Judge Newburger as final. Every juror who had admitted that he had any sympathy was excused by the District Attorney."

"Now, I assure you, I had been paying out all kinds of money for weeks and months. The secret committee had been drinking and smoking the best and drawing on me for funds."

"Judge Newburger referred to money for death claims," was suggested. "Did you

settle all those that were presented?"

"Of course, I did," Murphy continued. "Under the rules of the society I paid \$100 in each case. There were a lot of those claims that I settled of which there is no record. For instance, that of 'Mike' Fitzgerald, and well, I could cite a half dozen others, but what's the use of giving the names? I paid them, and that was the end of it."

"One day I was directed to appear at a meeting to be held at exactly the same time that I was to go to pay off one hundred men who were on a strike. It seemed to me more important to pay off the strikers than to go to the meeting, so I did not go, and there was trouble for me. I was not asked to show any books or memoranda. There was a lot of petty jealousy and one man was trying to make himself the sole boss."

Trouble of Long Standing.

"This trouble in the Stone Cutters' Union really dates back to four years ago. There was then a lockout, and after that the members of No. 1 would not go to work. Brooklyn men who went in were considered 'scabs.' There was a scattering, but a few men stayed out and held No. 1 together, staying together for eighteen months, when screws were put on the bosses and they gave up. 'Jimmy' Anslow, who had been the delegate, skipped over to the 'old country.' 'Jack' Boyle also cut out, and Rowan ran away to Pittsburgh. We managed to keep up through getting the work on the new building

for the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. When the time came that there was a chance for winning Rowan came back and he went for 'Jimmy.' "Under the settlement the bosses had to pay \$40 for each man who had remained at work. I was the secretary, but I had nothing to do with the money. 'Mike' Bird-sall, the delegate, handled it all, and it was deposited so that one or two men could get at any part of it that they wanted at any time. I made a kick and said I had to know what was being done."

"Did you find the money intact?"

"No," Murphy said. "Two men could draw and they had drawn. To arrange matters they voted to give \$1500 to a man who was sick. Now I should not have been willing to stand trial if I had not been convinced that all these matters could have been brought out and I should expect to tell the story on the witness stand instead of to the Herald. Mr. McIntyre had heard all I knew, and he was prepared to put in my evidence, but the Court would not let him. I had been advised to plead guilty on the theory that I would get a lighter sentence, but I did not know whether I would or not, and I don't know yet, so I hesitated, although I might have made the plea had I known that I must be held accountable for everything and that the testimony to show that others were in it would be rejected."

"I was as much astonished as anybody by some of the things brought out against me, and I want to say that there was rank perjury on the part of some men who got money, as you said, but he had never got money from me, but he had many, many times."

"Why, the feeling in the union was that they should take anything that I could scrape up, and I told them straight that I didn't know whether I could raise \$5,000, but that I should try. That talk about \$15,000 having been taken by me is all nonsense."

"I was very angry because 'Ned' Rowan was against me, as he and I had many great friends. He used to come up every Sunday to the house. I lived above the Kingsbridge road, and we would go down together to the Speedway or elsewhere. He always came around for me."

"How did you come to give the money to all the officers of the union with as free a hand?"

"Working for Employers."

"They were entitled to sixty cents for each meeting. One night Call made a motion that each of them should get \$5, and he said, 'I'll be it if I'll do any more of this night work for the employers at sixty cents a throw.' Rowan said I might as well pay them the money, as it was all graft anyway. There was nothing of this on the record and it didn't come out in court, but all the others got money, and I am the only one to be acquitted. The year basis of the difficulty is that one man in our society has aimed to be the whole thing."

Despite his discouragement, Murphy has a lingering hope that he may be saved by an appeal, and there are many matters that he will not discuss, but that would not be new. Mr. McIntyre, might consider the revelations injudicious before the courts have finally passed upon them, but he has no doubt that Murphy told his story in the office of the prison, and as he was taken back to his cell his last words were—

"Do anything you can to help the little wife."

Convicted Treasurer Declares Witnesses Against Him Were Perjured.

NOW TELLS WHERE THE \$27,000 WENT

Admits Thefts, but Declares He Is Not Alone to Blame.

SOLICITOUS ABOUT WIFE

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## Employers Call Parks Worst of Trouble Makers

Walking Delegate for the Housemiths' Union Mysteriously Controls the Actions of Thousands of Workmen.

Samuel J. Parks on the first day of May last, when the building trades trouble began in New York, was known only as one of the walking delegates who met three times a week to discuss the affairs of their unions up in Brevoort Hall, in East Fifty-fourth street.

Labor men knew him as an aggressive man, who was always ready for a fight and frequently found one. He was not conspicuous in their councils. Employers, especially in the iron industry, knew him as a trouble maker.

From the day he was brought to New York, in 1902, by the George A. Fuller Company, strikes had followed his footsteps, and whenever "Sam" Parks appeared on a job employers understood that difficulties were ahead of them.

When the strikes and lockouts began last spring Parks was away at a health resort, being treated for a pulmonary disorder which his friends said would probably cut short his life. He returned suddenly to New York, and almost from the hour of his arrival he became one of the powerful agencies of control in the big struggle. Employers spoke his name with frowns and clinched teeth.

Four Thousand Obedy Him.

The four thousand stalwart members of the Housemiths' Union flocked around him and obeyed his commands. If any differed with him he hurled angry epithets at them, and often followed his words with a smash of his brawny fist.

On the day he was first arrested on the charge of obtaining \$2,000 by extortion from the Hecla Iron Works he drove frantically back from the Magistrate's court where he had been arraigned, and succeeded in causing a split in the United Board of Building Trades.

Within three weeks he was arrested on four separate charges of extortion, but contrary to the expectation of the employers this did not weaken Parks. His followers were more loyal to him than before, and regarded him more fondly than ever when he openly defied the employers and stated publicly that he would "strike every job in the country where a New York employer was interested."

He made good this threat to the extent of ordering strikes on fifty or more contracts where men had returned to work. Again and again efforts were made to treat with his union, but when the men were assembled at Masseneor Hall, no matter how fair a proposition might be offered by the employers, Parks' power manifested itself.

Acted on His Signal.

Any and all adventures from the employers were turned down when Parks gave the signal for action, and with a clamor that awakened the people for blocks around he repeated the same from the hall on the shoulders of his followers.

And what gives Parks this control over men? His enemies, and every employer is practically his enemy, say it is due to two reasons—first, that he is a liberal spender and keeps many of his men supplied with money and well paid places; and second, because rough, sturdy, and the class of the housemiths admire the qualities of brute force which Parks possesses. They say no

other kind of leadership could control such a class of men.

Parks says "It's because I'm a fighter. The men know I'm on the square and ready to fight at the drop of the hat when I don't get a square deal."

But Parks does not look the fighter that he is. He is thin and angular—he might be called scrawny—with pinched face, small head, sunken blue eyes that are very clear and steady, long swinging arms and hands, so large that they are out of proportion to the rest of his frame. And when his big right hand folds itself in a clinched fist his success as a fighter is explained.

He is five feet ten inches tall and weighs 160 pounds now, but a few years ago, before ill health reduced him, he weighed nearly two hundred. Those were Parks' golden days, when he says "he would rather fight than eat." He never stands exactly erect, always slightly stooped, with his broad shoulders bent forward and his long arms swinging as if ready for a blow.

Speaks to the Point.

His voice is harsh and heavy. He appears to be a man of few words, when he has business to transact. If one word is uttered that displeases him it comes a torrent of profanity and epithets. If argument is offered the big fists go to work at once. He is now awaiting trial on two charges of assault growing out of little friendly chats with friends.

Parks lives more like a well-to-do business man than like an iron worker. With his wife he occupies a fine apartment at Lexington avenue and Eighty-third street, and dresses well. Stories are told by his friends about his property holdings, and it is also said that he has several very comfortable bank accounts. As a walking delegate at the Housemiths' Union he receives \$1 a day, and is allowed certain sums for legitimate expenses.

His history is a rough weather story from the day he left county Down, in Ireland, when he was fourteen years old. He is now forty. The first winter he was in America he found employment in the lumber woods of Upper Canada, where he drove a team in a logging camp. "There," he says, "I learned what I didn't already know about fighting."

From this work he went on to the lakes as a sailor and then working in a construction gang on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. After that he was a brakeman on several different railroads, drifted back to the lakes again, sailed on Puget Sound and finally found himself working as a coal heaver in West Superior.

Here Parks got his first knowledge of organized labor and its methods. He joined the Coal Heavers' Union and says he became convinced it was a good thing. In 1902 Parks found himself in Chicago working at a riveter on the big steel buildings which were being put up there in great numbers. There his prominence in the labor world began. Having been a sailor, he was a good climber, he loved the danger and the hazardous work and soon became an expert riveter.

"One day," said Parks, in relating this epoch of his life, "I got to thinking that I was risking my life every day for \$3 and that it wasn't enough money. Other good fellows all around me were doing the same thing, and so I joined the union there and got \$4. That showed me that unions were all right."

Parks was employed in Chicago by the George A. Fuller Construction Company, which was then just beginning to get a foothold in New York. He became a foreman on the company, and in 1898 the Fuller company sent him to New York as foreman of forty riveters. The first job he worked on

here was a building at Broadway and Bleecker street.

Union Here Insignificant.

"At that time," said Parks, "the iron workers in New York were working from \$3.75 to \$3.25 a day and working from eight to twelve hours. They had a small union, but it didn't do any thing. The bosses snubbed it, and the men didn't know what to do with it. Well, I joined, and in four months or so such a matter I was elected a delegate. Nobody would have the job then. Well, I began talking to the boys about what we had done in Chicago and told them I was going to have better wages here. Those were the golden days, when I had the big head and got cheery. I gave a punch or two and then they got nice to me. You've got to lick some men before they like you. Finally I got more than they do now. They imported 'guys' to do me up and that was fun, but we kept the fight up, and in 1888 we got the iron workers' union to increase to \$2.50 a day. Then the other lead-

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But the final test of strength between Parks and the New York employers was to come. At a meeting of the housemiths' union last Friday night, much to the surprise of the employers, Parks carried the meeting absolutely by his way, and reflected the request of the employers to have a conference with the union. The result of this is that the employers have now defied Parks and will put to work any housemith tomorrow morning who will go to work for them as individuals.

They say they have now reached a stage where they can ignore Parks and all his followers, and proceed with the building work to matter what he does. Several times before since last May they have made attempts to get the iron workers' union to come to the front with some new and disconcerting move, with the backing of a surprising large number of union men.

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EMPLOYERS COMPLETE PLANS.

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Concerning the action of the housemiths in Friday night in rejecting the overtures of the employers, this statement was given out by the employers' press committee yesterday:

ATTACKS THE UNIONS.

Edward Moffett, a member of the Civic Federation and editor of the official organ of the Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, has issued an official statement in which he severely criticizes the unions which have refused to sign the arbitration agreement. In part the statement says—

"The interests of no one are injured in this struggle for arbitration save those of that type of walking delegate whose reign in rule or ruin and who more than any other class have given a black eye to trade unions."

"Not only have the employers agreed to hire union men, but it is provided that there shall be no cut in wages or increase in hours. It is noteworthy that the employers have not exacted that the trades unions should ask for more pay or a decrease in hours."

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER KILLED.

Struck by Railroad Train While Walking Across a Bridge.

OHIO, N. Y., Saturday.—Mrs. Henry McDermott and her daughter, Nellie, were caught on the slender bridge over the Oswego, River here to-day and instantly killed by an incoming New York Central passenger train.

They were walking across the bridge to the house where a wedding was to have been

## Rents Advance as Result of Building Trade Strike

Increase of from Ten to Twenty Per Cent Presaged by Agents Because No New Dwellings Have Been Completed Since Labor Troubles Began.

As a result of the strikes and lockouts in the building trades during the summer, rents of dwelling houses and the better class of apartments are to be increased from ten to twenty per cent, and real estate men say there will be such an exciting scramble after living places in New York about October 1 as has never been dreamed of here before.

This summer no dwelling houses or apartment buildings have been built, but the demand for them has increased. Particularly on the upper west side of the city, where high class houses and apartments are wanted, the situation is already an extreme one. In West End avenue and Riverside Drive, where two years ago "to let" or "for sale" signs were plentiful in every block, it is now almost impossible to get a house at any price.

Owners and agents controlling the property in that locality said yesterday that they would be unable to meet the demands that would come for houses a little later in the season. They stated that all who were able to do so were renewing their present leases, many at an advance of ten or fifteen per cent on last year's rentals, and that many, becoming discouraged in their search, had fitted up their suburban summer homes for the season.

It was the opinion of real estate men in all parts of the city that the rentals of tenements and lower priced apartments would not be increased. It was explained that on the east side builders had been able to complete a few new tenement houses, and that the building trade had been remiss in providing additional living room. In the upper Harlem section there have been for several years many new flat houses practically empty, and these places will now swallow up the surplus of house hunters who have hitherto objected to going so far up town, but these are apartments that rent for \$15 to \$45 a month. It is the houses that usually rent from \$1,000 to \$3,000 a year and apartments of the same grade that are scarce.

DEMAND EXCEEDS THE SUPPLY.

A member of the firm of Silas and Hobbs said yesterday:—"We are forced to increase rents on many of our houses and high class apartments. The scarcity of good places is unprecedented, and next year will see rents much worse than now. There are several reasons for this situation. First of all is the labor trouble, which has absolutely prevented any new dwelling structures from being completed. Each year there is a perceptible increase in the demand for houses and apartments in the west side. Business is constantly crowding residents out of the town, and added to these are the large number of people, wealthy and otherwise, who come in from the